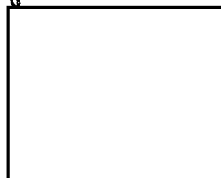


MEMORANDUM FOR:

ADCI

Attached is the Beirut Embassy  
cable referred to by Bob Gates  
this morning. See para 3. Attached  
also is the DDO report.



State Dept. review completed

Date

21 Sep 82

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FRP: . . . , 5, . . .

STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: FILE, RF, CR/NE, ICS/OHC/ME, MID-E,  
 NE/ARN-3, NE/ISR-2, NESA/AI, NESA/AI/E-2, NESA/AI/I-2, NESA/AIDC,  
 NESA/PG, NESA/PG/P, NESA/PGDC, NESA/SCIO, NESA/SO, NESA/SO/C, NIO/NE,  
 NPIC, ODPH-H, ODPN-N, ODPS-S, OER, OGI-2, OGI/GD/NFS, OGI/IIC/PI,  
 OGI/IIC/TR-2, OIA/ERRS, OIA/LFMEA, PLANFAC-E, RF, SAG/AB, SAG/LIB,  
 SAG/MAB, SAG/MEB, SAG/PPB, SAG/SEB-3, SOV/CS/CL.

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FM AMEMBASSYBEIRUT

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8678

RUEHTV/AMEMBASSYTEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE 1024

RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE 0937

INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSYAMMAN IMMEDIATE 0739

RUEHEG/AMEMBASSYCAIRO IMMEDIATE 0720

RUEHDM/AMEMBASSYDAMASCUS 0859

RUEHJI/AMEMBASSYJIDDA IMMEDIATE 0722

RUQMYA/USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE 0214

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6316

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: LE, PINS, PINT, MOPS, IS

SUBJECT: IDF TAKE OVER OF WEST BEIRUT SEPTEMBER 17

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT).

2. AT 0900 LOCAL IDF TANK FIRE IS CONCENTRATED ON THE  
 LAST REMAINING POCKETS OF RESISTANCE IN WEST BEIRUT.  
 FROM THE RESIDENCE IN YARZE WE CAN SEE AND HEAR A  
 MODERATE LEVEL OF TANK FIRE FOCUSSED ON THE MURABITUN-  
 CONTROLLED NEIGHBORHOOD JUST EAST AND NORTH OF THE  
 ABDUL NASR MOSQUE, IN THE HOURJ ABI HAIDAR AND  
 BASTA SECTIONS OF THE CITY. A LARGE CLOUD OF BLACK  
 SMOKE HANGS OVER THE AREA, AS TANK FIRE CONTINUES.

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3. DURING THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 16-17 ACTIVITY APPEARED TO BE FOCUSED ON THE ABOVE MENTIONED AREAS AND AROUND THE PALESTINIAN CAMPS SOUTH OF CORNICHE AL-MAZRAAH. THROUGHOUT THE EVENING AIRCRAFT DROPPED FLARES, ILLUMINATING THE CAMPS AND THE SPORTS STADIUM. DURING THE NIGHT WE DID NOT NOTE ANY TANK FIRE IN THESE AREAS; WE PRESUME THE FLARES WERE USED SO THAT THE IDF COULD OBSERVE ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND THE CAMPS. CONFIRMING THE INFORMATION THAT SHARON GAVE DRAPER IN YESTERDAY'S MEETING, THE LAF TELLS US THAT THE IDF HAS NOT GONE INTO THE CAMPS, BUT REMAINS OUTSIDE OF THEM IN FORCE.

4. THIS MORNING'S L'ORIENT LE JOUR REPORTS THAT 31 LEBANESE WERE KILLED, AND 121 WERE WOUNDED, IN YESTERDAY'S TAKEOVER OF WEST BEIRUT. FIVE OF THOSE KILLED AND SIX OF THOSE WOUNDED WERE REPORTED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE MURABITUN MILITIA. THE LAF INFORMS US THAT ONE LAF OFFICER WAS KILLED, AND ONE SOLDIER WAS WOUNDED, YESTERDAY IN THE AREA OF TAYYOUN CIRCLE.

5. ACCORDING TO LAF ANALYSIS, THE IDF'S INVASION OF WEST BEIRUT TOOK PLACE ALONG FOUR AXES: (1) FROM THE SOUTH ALONG THE COASTAL ROAD; (2) ALONG THE AIRPORT ROAD; (3) WESTWARD FROM THE PORT; AND (4) WESTWARD THROUGH THE HOTEL DISTRICT. ALONG EACH AXIS THE IDF SENT ONE MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALION, REINFORCED BY AT LEAST A TANK COMPANY AND ENGINEERS. TOTAL IDF STRENGTH IN WEST BEIRUT NOW IS ESTIMATED TO BE TWO BRIGADES.

6. LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON THE IDF ANNOUNCED, THROUGH LOUDSPEAKERS IN THE STREETS, THE IMPOSITION OF A 7 PM CURFEW IN ALL OF WEST BEIRUT. BARRETT

END OF MESSAGE

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